

# Economic Development in Argyll and Bute

**Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership**  
**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012**



# Strengths:

- high quality natural environment and sustainable, economic assets
- diverse, concentrated sources of renewable energy
- higher than average levels of self-employment and entrepreneurial spirit
- much of the area is in close proximity to central Scotland and major urban centres
- agriculture, fishing and aquaculture
- abundance of iconic tourist attractions and cradle of Scottish history and culture
- significant mature forestry resources
- communities with strong identities, heritage and attractive environments
- a good quality of life and family-friendly environment



# Opportunities:

- renewable energy potential that can create jobs, enterprises and investment and benefit our communities
- key sectors - tourism, food and drink and forestry:
- higher value tourism and longer season
- strengthen links between local food and drink produce and tourism
- resort development
- access to world-class wildlife and landscapes
- Increased consumer demand for food and drink with provenance
- create vibrant dynamic communities that have a reputation for a high quality of life and attract entrepreneurs and investors
- new models of working e.g. Social Enterprises
- National Park a visitor 'gateway' to Argyll and Bute
- recalibrating Scottish economy (role of rural economy)



## Weaknesses:

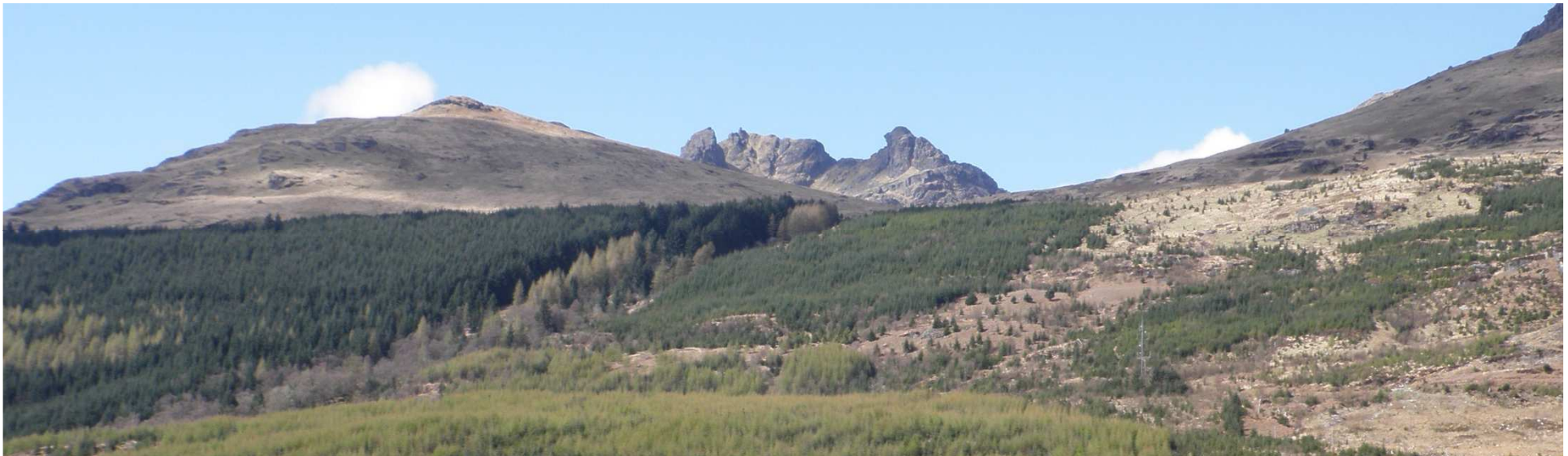
- demographic structure
- connectivity with rest of Scotland
- dependency on seasonal tourism and the public sector for employment opportunities
- narrow economic base and a reliance on low skills
- remoteness and fragile island-based communities – cost of public sector services higher
- pockets of deprivation
- profile and perception





# Threats:

- current national and international economic situation
- ageing population with young people leaving the area
- deteriorating transport and connectivity
- rising cost of fuel and reliance on fossil fuel
- availability of affordable housing exacerbated by the existence of many second holiday or retirement homes
- increasing competition for National and European funding
- new business models



# Economic Development Strategy and Priorities

## - two key documents



### Economic Development Action Plan

2010 – 2013

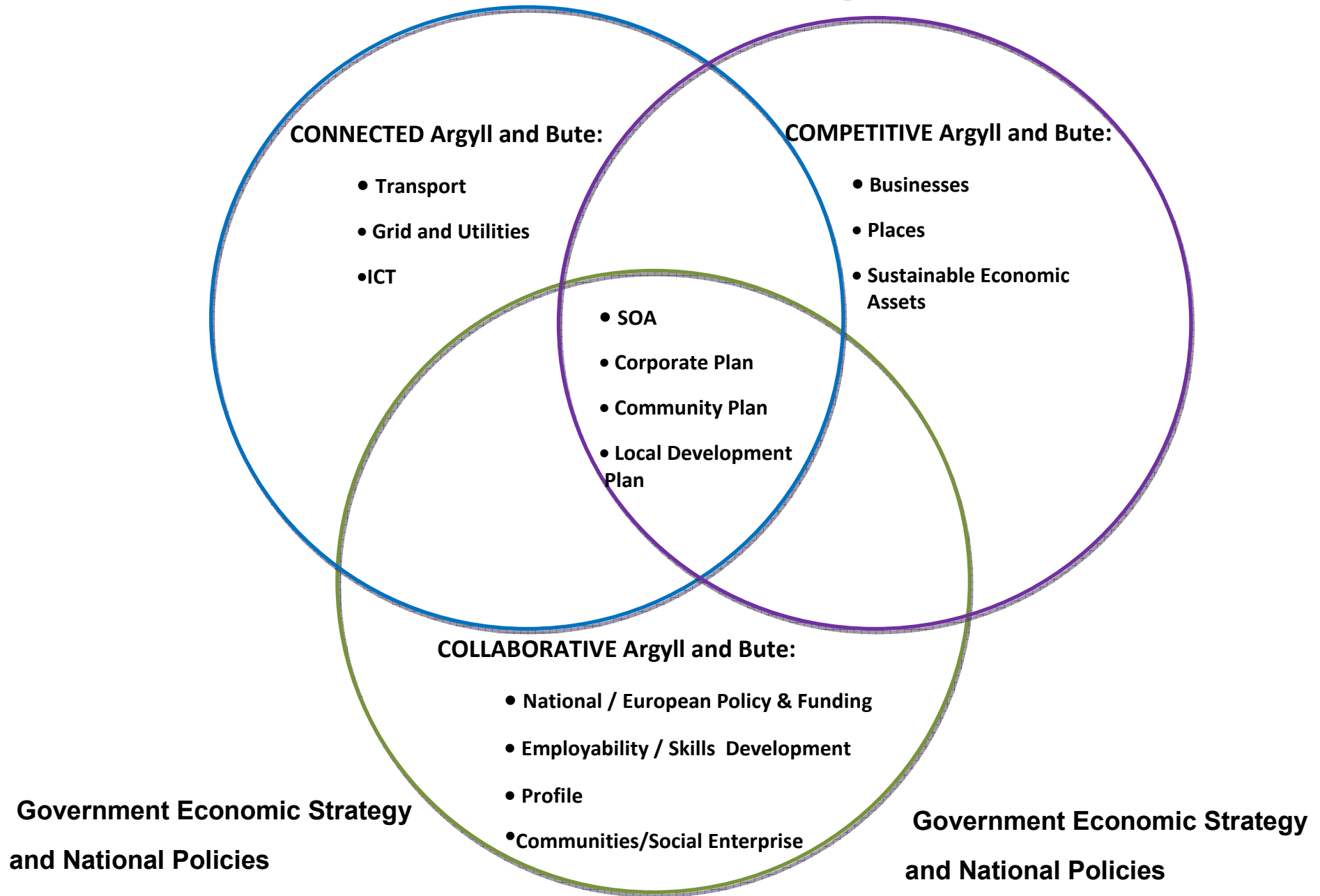


### Argyll and Bute Renewable Energy Action Plan

*Powering Scotland's Future*



# Framework for Economic Development Action Plan



# **Working with our Key Industries**

## **Our Sustainable Economic Assets**

- Renewable Energy**
- Tourism**
- Food and Drink**
- Forestry**



# Renewable Energy Action Plan Milestones

- Argyll and Bute Renewable Alliance (ABRA)
- Wind Towers Ltd
- N-RIP - Campbeltown
- TIF (Lorn arc)
- Ports and Harbours and influencing National policy
- Tiree Scenario Planning
- Community Benefit
- GIS Mapping
- Local Skills Assessment
- Engineering Skills Facilities (Argyll College)
- Influencing EU Policy
- Promotional Materials and Events



**WAVE**  
Breaking the cycle

**WIND**  
Industry's step-change

**HYDRO**  
Meeting the target

A Holyrood magazine  
SUPPLEMENT

www.holyrood.com  
May 2011

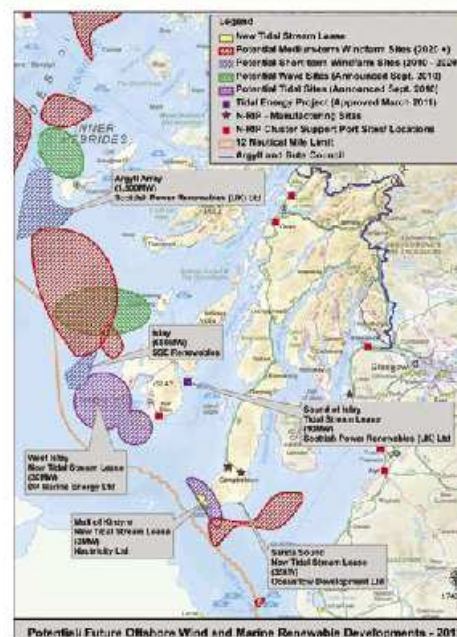
# Renewables



## BIG BUSINESS

UKTI'S CRAIG JONES ON GLOBAL PROSPECTS

## Powering Scotland's Future – Argyll and the Islands



The European Marine Science Park – currently under construction



Hummock deployment, Sound of Islay



Argyll and the Islands has a unique and significant mix of indigenous renewable energy resources, in hydro, wind, wave, tidal and biomass.

The area's proximity to Scotland's Central Belt and Ireland make it ideally positioned for supplying electricity to large population centres.

### Track record of innovation

Such assets have fired the imagination of private investors and public bodies. The region is no stranger to innovation.

- Cruachan hydro-electric scheme is one of the largest pump storage power stations in the UK.
- The Limpet, at Portnahaven Islay is the world's first commercial wave power energy scheme.
- World-leading 10MW Tidal Array demonstration project is to be developed in the Sound of Islay.
- A community windfarm on the island of Gigha – supporting the islands energy needs and providing an income for the community – is the first of its kind in Scotland.
- The proposed Argyll Array off the island of Tiree will be one of Europe's largest offshore wind farms.

### ABRA – A Driving Force

The Argyll and Bute Renewable Alliance (ABRA) has been established by key private and public partners to deliver our vision of putting Argyll and the Islands at the heart of renewable energy development in Scotland.

### Delivering our Vision

In the last year, ABRA partners have delivered a range of achievements, including:

- **Argyll College Engineering Facility** – Funding secured to provide general engineering and specific renewables training.
- **Campbeltown / Machrihanish NRIP Site** – Significant marine and road infrastructure investment has underpinned the development of this site as a renewable energy hub and the major turbine tower manufacturer, Wind Towers Ltd.
- **European Marine Science Park** – Adjacent to the world leading Scottish Association for Marine Science, this will provide laboratory and office space for the private sector, focusing on marine science and marine energy.
- **Lorn Aro Project** – A package of marine and road infrastructure investment to stimulate economic development in Oban and the surrounding area, linked to renewable energy and marine research.
- **Renewable Energy Interactive Mapping** – An innovative spatial mapping system for developers, partners and residents.
- **Tiree Onshore Scenarios** – Ground-breaking study to review onshore implications of the proposed offshore Argyll Array for the community of Tiree.



For further information see [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/renewable-energy](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/renewable-energy).

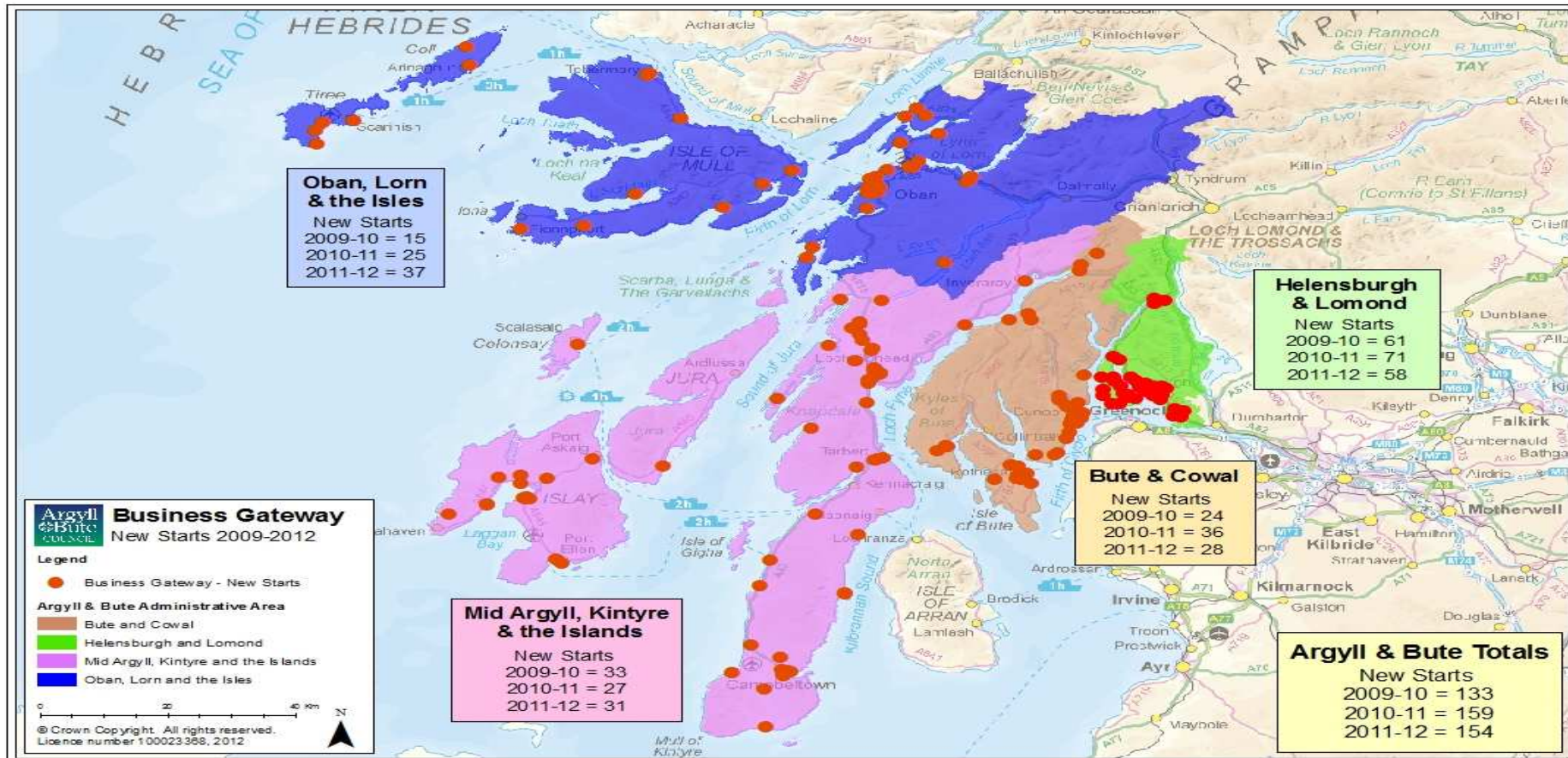
# Tourism

- **Tourism and hospitality is main private sector employer**
- **Council led way in rethinking the Argyll and Isles Tourism Partnership**
- **Partnership is now private sector led with significant funding from Visit Scotland and LEADER – Council provided seed funding**
- **Visit Scotland now call Argyll and Isles Tourism Partnership a national exemplar**

# **Delivering Services to our Communities**



Supporting 446 New businesses to start up in Argyll and Bute in 3 years  
(1000 businesses in total)



# Delivering Services to our Communities

- Argyll and Bute Employability Team

Over the past 10 year the Employability Team has successfully delivered Welfare to Work services using National and European Funds

Secured sub contract for delivery of DWP Work Programme across Highlands and Islands  
207 sustainable job outcomes since inception of DWP Programme last summer

- European Team

Since May 2008 the Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) has awarded over £7.4 million of grant funding to 228 projects, with total project costs of over £18.3 million a substantial cash injection for communities

The European team work closely with our regional and National partners to influence EU Policy and access funding e.g. £4.5 million of ERDF awarded to infrastructure projects in Argyll and Bute over last 2 years



Europe and Scotland  
Making it **work together**



Europe and Scotland  
Making it **work together**

# Delivering Services to our Communities

- Strategic Transportation, including Marine and Airports

Management and operation of the Council's Marine Infrastructure (Piers and Harbours) and ferry services

Management and operation of the Council's Airports and Air Services to the islands

Identifying and promoting the Council's transport priorities and facilitating road safety

Inputting to National Transport and infrastructure Policy and influencing investment decisions

- § Social Enterprise Team

Working with Social Enterprises and organisations to promote development eg. Coastal Communities Fund, Growing Community Assets



# **Delivering Regeneration in our Communities**

**CHORD**



# CHORD Background

- An ambitious programme to assist regeneration and economic development in five waterfront towns – Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon.
- Council has agreed to allocate more than £30m.
- Projects involved set by outline business cases.
- Aim to maximise the activities planned through CHORD and lever additional funding – both private and public.

# Aim and Objectives

- *Aim –*
  - *Contribute to the creation of an attractive, well connected and modern economy.*
- *Objectives -*
  - *To improve the character, appearance and function of our towns for residents, visitors and investors.*
  - *To make our towns places of economic vibrancy that create employment and prosperity for the residents of Argyll and Bute.*

# The Projects

## **Campbeltown**

- CHORD funding allocation **£6.50m**
- Townscape Heritage Initiative
- Berthing Facility
- Kinloch Road regeneration







**Boots - Before**



Boots - After



Old Schoolhouse - before





Old Schoolhouse - after







New Road through Park Square

26/04/2012







# Local Development Plan

Land use spatial plan for the Council that replaces the current development Plan (Structure Plan and Local Plan);

The 2006 Planning Etc.(Scotland) Act requires the Development Plan to be up to date (renewed every five years);

In Argyll and Bute there is only a requirement for a Local Development Plan (LDP);

Has to ensure that there is a five year supply of effective housing land and ten years for business land;

Has to contain a clear settlement/spatial strategy;

Has to address the impacts of climate change;

Has to be supported by all of the key agencies;

Has to be deliverable and realistic;

Has to be fully funded;

# Local Development Plan

**Efficient** - up to date, responsive to change, providing certainty, identifying development opportunities;

**Inclusive** - involvement of local people on local issues;

**Integrated** – provides spatial dimension to national and local strategies, action plans including EDAP, REAP, Housing Strategy;

**Fit for purpose** – supports high quality outcomes on the ground and addresses our area's issues in a challenging environment;

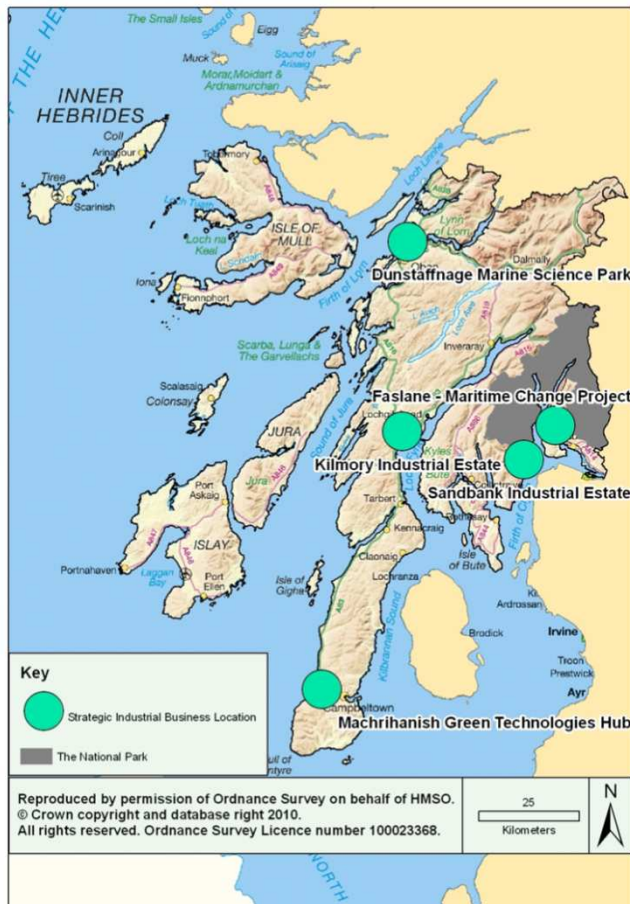
**Sustainable** – fully supports sustainable economic growth;

**Deliverable** - realistic and accompanied by an agreed action programme with our partners;





# Local Development Plan



**Central Challenge to deliver a Sustainable and Growing Economy to counter population loss trend**

More flexible approach to Tourism;  
Encourages the growth of Forestry and associated industries;

Identified the capacity for new Wind farms;

Establishes spheres of influence;

Identifies Strategic and Local Industrial Land – Campbeltown, Tobermory and Oban;

Regeneration – takes a more focussed approach

Establishes Economic Priority Areas

Identifies new Retail opportunities

# Conclusion

LDP has taken into account over 1,000 individuals and organisations comments so far in its preparation;

LDP will be a spatial plan fully integrated with the council's other strategies and corporate outcomes;

LDP will also be a promotional tool that highlights our numerous successes and addresses the central challenge we face is reversing a falling population through a sustainable and growing economy;

LDP will be interactive, flexible and responsive to changing and challenging circumstances:

# **Your Thoughts on Economic Development Priorities 2013 Onwards**

- Will help shape the new Economic Development Action Plan
- Will inform Local Development Plan, Community Plan / SOA